



Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

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Travis County issues its first burn ban of 2015

The Travis County Commissioners Court voted to ban outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of the County for the first time in 2015. The last burn ban in the County ended in September 2014.

"Spring rains led to the growth of plants and grasses, which are now drying quickly in the hot weather," explained Travis County Fire Marshal Hershel Lee. "Fire spreads rapidly through dry vegetation. Remember to not throw cigarettes out vehicle windows, and make sure machinery and vehicles are properly maintained to avoid creating sparks that cause fire."

The burn ban is scheduled to expire on August 26, unless action is taken by the County Judge, Commissioners Court or Fire Marshal. Next Tuesday, August 4, commissioners are scheduled to again consider and take appropriate action on outdoor burning.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) measures moisture in the top eight inches of the soil and ranges from 0, indicating the wettest conditions, to 800, for the driest conditions. The County is currently at an average of 427 on the KBDI with daily increases in dryness.

This ban on outdoor burning does not affect a prescribed burn under the supervision of a prescription burn manager. It also does not affect outdoor hot work when done under the guidelines established by the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office. Prescription burn managers and those in need of outdoor hot work permits must contact the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office or the fire department in whose jurisdiction the work will be done.

Barbecuing in Travis County Parks and Parks managed by the County is allowed as long as the fire is within a closeable container or a container with a lid. You should also have water nearby in case the fire spreads. Call 911 immediately if a fire gets out of control.

If you have questions about the burn ban, please call the Fire Marshal's Office at 512-854-4621, or contact your local fire department.

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Media: Please call the Fire Marshal's Office for interviews or questions at 512-854-4621.